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INTELLIGENCE

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 13 March 1951

SUBJECT Purge of Croatian Party Members

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PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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1. A large scale purge of Yugoslav Party members in Croatia reportedly began early in February 1951 and was continuing as of 4 March. Many Government officials suspected of Cominformism have been arrested in Zagreb where several streets have been cleared of their occupants. One of the areas evacuated was Ulica Nazorova, in the choice residential section leading to Tuskanac where Tito and high government officials have their residences. After clearance of the area, reliable Party members were moved into houses where concrete air raid shelters are now under construction.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY U.S.

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 14 March 1951

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ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

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1.

reports dated 1949 under the following

subjects:

- a. Organic Artillery of Infantry Units
- b. Army Motor Transportation Corps
- c. Survey of the Czech Army Military School System

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Organisation and Armament

Artillery units which are assigned the mission of close support of infantry which are organic components of infantry units are equipped with 76 mm cannons (short barrel) Mx 42 S (Soviet) and 120mm heavy mortars M (German) or S (Soviet).

These weapons are grouped in identical platoons, i.e., cannon platoons and mortar platoons. The units are called infantry artillery batteries and are on company level. The batteries are under the direct command of the battalion commanding officer if part of an independent battalion, or the regimental commanding officer if part of an infantry regiment. In the latter case the subordinate battalions of the regiment do not have their own artillery batteries.

The war-time T/O specified a complement of approximately 100 men in the batteries. Normal peace-time strength is approximately 40.

Mission

The cannon platoons are used only for direct fire of individual guns against ground targets. Only in extreme emergencies is the 76mm short barrel cannon used as an anti-tank weapon because the short barrel renders the gun ineffective for this purpose.

The heavy mortar platoons with their high rate of fire constitute the fire power reserve of the infantry regiment commanding officer or the independent battalion commanding officer. The commanding officer may detail all or part of the heavy mortars to support a lower unit, he may switch them to halt an enemy counterattack, or he may keep them in reserve.

During the artillery preparation before an attack, all heavy mortars, as well as ~~infantry~~ infantry cannons are concentrated and under direct control of the divisional artillery commander, who is responsible for coordination of all fire power. Once the attack has started to move, the mortars and infantry cannons are returned to the jurisdiction of the individual infantry commanders.

Contrary to practice in some western armies, where as a rule mortars are used individually, the Soviet-inspired doctrine emphasizes concentration of fire. Therefore, mortars are fired in platoons and even in batteries, and the method of firing resembles that of normal artillery. Since 1948, experiments were made with fire control centers or gunnery centers (STRELECKA USTREDNA), but as yet there is no trained personnel nor necessary equipment available for this method of firing.

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Training of Recruits

In the middle of November, after 6 weeks of basic and general training, the specialist training of infantry artillery personnel begins. Some of the trainees are sent to artillery NCO schools that last until the end of February. NCO's from the infantry artillery are always assigned to special platoons in the regular artillery NCO schools. During the month of February they attend special NCO courses where the special mission of the infantry artillery is emphasized.

These trainees from battalions and regiments that are not chosen for NCO schools are normally pooled and trained in brigades or division training companies due to a shortage of instructors and training equipment.

At the end of February, when individual training has been completed, and team, section and platoon training starts, the special training pools are usually dissolved. Trainees and student NCO's return to their parent units, and their regular training continues in their units.

During the months of June and July, the artillery infantry units normally participate in practice firing in one of the military training areas. In recent years lack of ammunition has sharply reduced the amount of firing. Concurrently the units participate in tactical problems which involve coordination with infantry units.

Obstacles to Training of Infantry Artillery

The introduction of infantry artillery and its incorporation into infantry units was postwar (WW II) innovation. During the period between 1945 and 1947, scant attention was paid to the problems created by this organizational change. The reason was the lack of understanding of the problem on the part of higher infantry unit commanding officers. Friction frequently arose out of the fact that because an insufficient number of infantry officers were trained for this special field, regular artillery officers were attached to the infantry to train and command infantry artillery units. The artillery officers, in turn, did not have sufficient understanding of the infantry problems.

Little care was exercised in the selection of men fit for this type of special training. The batteries had no training equipment. They were given the shabbiest clothing in the parent unit, and men were frequently removed from training and sent on TDY. In many cases the battery organic transportation was utilized by the parent unit for routine transportation.

This situation has been remedied since 1948. Infantry officers with specialized training in this type of warfare are beginning to take over command of infantry artillery units. Higher infantry unit commanding officers are slowly becoming cognizant of the value of the immediate support of their own artillery. More care is exercised in the selection of personnel for training, and adequate training equipment has been provided for infantry artillery units.

On or about 1 October 1949, the T/O of infantry artillery units will be increased. New infantry artillery training directives have been issued by the General Staff for the next training year. In these directives great emphasis is placed on tactical training with the lowest infantry units from the initial stage of the training.

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Function of the Motor Transportation Corps

The Corps is a separate service of the CSR Army. (In Czech it is actually called an army, but its functions correspond to those of a US Army service.) It is under the direction and administration of VII Department (ODBOR) of the Ministry of National Defense which is headed by General Vilém LICHNER (Chief) and Colonel (fnu) JASICEK (Deputy Chief).

During peace time, the Corps consists of motor transportation battalions (AUTO-PRAPORY), heavy vehicle workshops (AUTOZBEROJOVKY) and one training center. (As of 15 September 1949 it comprised seven motor transport battalions and three heavy vehicle workshops.) Its mission is to accomplish routine garrison transportation, special transportation duties as ordered by higher headquarters, ~~transportation~~ and the training of recruits, specialists, and traffic direction personnel. Motor transport battalions are subordinated to the headquarters of the military district in which they are located and are under the direction of the chief of motor transportation service of that headquarters.

In the event of war, the corps is mobilized and provides transportation units and traffic direction personnel to divisions, armies and GHQS (army corps have no services). The units carry ammunition, food, POL, equipment and supplies of all kinds, and, if necessary, troops.

Training

The first year of military service in any arm or service is divided into four training phases:

1st Phase (1 October to 15 November) - six weeks basic training which includes close order drill, weapons training, individual combat training, military courtesy, military justice, etc.

2nd Phase (15 November to 30 April) - Tactical and combat training of squads and section, including range firing of small arms. Specialized training is introduced during this period.

3rd Phase (1 May - 15 July) - Training of platoons in combat and tactical problems and in certain company level field problems employing live ammo.

4th Phase (15 July - 30 September) - Field problems on battalion level, including large scale field exercises and maneuvers. Review of training and preparation for the reception of new recruits.

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With minor deviations, all arms or services follow this basic training pattern. After completion of these initial phases, the armored and artillery corps devote all training time to specialized training. Specialized training in the corps of engineers, signal corps and the services is carried out simultaneously with basic training.

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In addition to and with the basic training, members of the transportation corps receive the following training:

1st Phase - No special training is conducted but recruits are tested to determine their eligibility for future specialized training.

2nd Phase - Training of selected NCOs, drivers, and supply and administrative personnel. Drivers are taught to operate vehicles, maintenance, vehicle drill, methods of loading and unloading and minor repairs. The same subjects are taught in the NCO schools but there the emphasis is placed on leadership.

Training of automotive mechanics, and electricians is conducted separately, during the middle of this phase, in the heavy automobile workshops (AUTO-ZBROJOVKA - A2), to which a quota of trainees are sent.

3rd Phase - Team and collective transport training. Included are convoy driving, transport field training, loading and unloading of personnel and supplies, loading vehicles on flatcars, etc. Further specialized training includes a four-week motorcycle course and training of selected personnel for traffic direction duties.

4th Phase - Review of training. Participation in company and battalion field training, field exercises, and maneuvers.

Disseminating and camping are both stressed during the summer and winter training periods.

The schedule outlined above represents the general program of training. Changes and amendments thereto are issued yearly or periodically by the Transport Division of the Ministry of National Defense.

Motor Transport Battalions

Staff:

Operation Officer (PROVOZNI DUSTOJNIK)
Political Education Officer (OSVETOVY DUSTOJNIK)
Officer in Charge of Supply (MATERIALNI DUSTOJNIK)
Officer in Charge of Equipment (SPRAYEC MATERIALU)
QM Officer (HOSPODAR)
Technical QM (TECHNICKY HOSPODAR)
Food Supply Officer (PROVIANNTNI DUSTOJNIK)

At the end of September 1949 there were seven motor transport battalions (see chart attached as Appendix "A") in the CSR Army. There were located as follows:

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1st MT Bn - PRAGUE
 2d MT Bn - VYSOKÉ MYTO (1610E-4957N)
 3d MT Bn - PLZEN (1323E-4945N)
 5th MT Bn - BRNO
 6th MT Bn - OLOMOUK (1715E-4935N)
 8th MT Bn - KOSICE (2115E-4844N)
 12th MT Bn - RAKOVNIK (1344E-5006N)

The 4th MT Bn., located at TABOR (1435E-4925N), was disbanded on 30 September 1949 in the course of reorganization of the Army. However, one independent MT Company ~~remained~~ remained which was moved to OHRNICE BUDENOVICH (1428E-4858N) and placed under command of the 1st (Infantry) Division. The rest of the battalion was attached to the 1st, 3rd and 6th MT Bn. The 7th MT Bn was also disbanded at the same time.

Companies:

Training Company

Major - Commander

Headquarters Company:

Transport Officer (NADVOZNY DUSTOJNIK)
 Officer in Charge of Supply (MATERIALNI DUSTOJNIK)
 Technical Officer (TECHNICKY DUSTOJNIK)
 3d Sergeant (UCHETNI)
 1st Sergeant (VYKONNY)
 BM strength: 50

Each company is composed of from two to four platoons, depending upon the number of trainees. The number of trainees engaged in the first and second stages of training varies. There are 130 BM trainees in the 6th MT Bn. during the current training year. Approximately 50 vehicles are assigned per company.

Function: To train all assigned recruits during the first and second training periods in order to free the motor transport companies for operational duties. The training company also conducts the five-month training course for NCOs which is given at the beginning of the second training period. In the event of mobilization, the training company is attached to the replacement company and used to train new recruits.

Motor Transport Company

Commander - Jr. Major

Headquarters Company:

Transport Officer (NADVOZNY DUSTOJNIK)
 Officer in Charge of Supply (MATERIALNI DUSTOJNIK)
 Technical Officer (TECHNICKY DUSTOJNIK)
 1st Sergeant (VYKONNY)
 BM Strength: 40

Two platoons are activated.

Each company is assigned 21 trucks, one passenger vehicle and one motorcycle. An operational reserve of vehicles is maintained for use upon direct order from military district headquarters.

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Function: To perform actual transport duties of the battalion, normal garrison transport, and special assignments in the operational area of the district concerned as directed by higher headquarters. In coordination with the replacement company, the company commander is held responsible for the preparation of mobilization plans for units mobilized by his company. During the first and second training periods (October to April), only EM in their second year of service are assigned to the company. Recruits are later attached.)

Replacement Company:

Commander - Major

Headquarters Company:

Mobilization Officer (MOBILISACNI DUSTOJNIK)

Officer in Charge of Records (VEDOUCI KMEHOVHO POCTU)

Accounting Officer (POCETNI DUSTOJNIK)

Second Echelon workshops are attached for administration.

EM Strength: Approximately 40

Function: Handles induction, receipt and assignment of recruits. Also maintains records of all battalion members on active duty or reserve status. The CO is responsible for all mobilization plans and preparations, and for the supervision of all types of mobilization supply reserves. In the event of mobilization or war, the company trains draftees and reserves and is responsible for furnishing replacements to field units.

Motor Vehicle Heavy Workshops (AUTOZEROJOVKY - AZ):

Used for heavy repair. They are located as follows:

AZ - 1 - PRELOUC (1534E-5003E)

AZ - 2 - ELATOVICE near KEMCIN (1803E-4853E). Commanded by Colonel Ing. (fmu) LEPTAK

AZ - 3 - Probably will be located at OLOMOUC (1715E-4935E). Commanded by Lt. Colonel (fmu) VORAC.

Motor Transport Training Center

Located at NITRA (1805E-4818E). Commanded by Lt. Colonel (fmu) MASNY.

6th Motor Transport Battalion [REDACTED]. Location: OLOMOUC

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Personalities:

Headquarters:

Maj. Jaroslav OBST

Jr. Maj. Rudolf VYBIRAL

Jr. Maj. VRBA

1st Lt. SMUTNY

1st Lt. Vilem GAJDA

Lt. GERZA

Lt. Jaroslav BOUDNIK

Lt. KRIKA

2d Lt. Jan JURICKA-NAUTL

Commander

Operational Officer (PROVOZNI DUSTOJNIK)

QM & Technical QM (HOSPODAR a TECHNICKY HOSPODAR)

Finance Officer (LIKVIDATOR)

Food Supply Officer (PROVIANTHI)

Supply Officer (MATERIALNI DUSTOJNIK)

Officer in charge (SPRAVCE AUG. SKLADU a of Mobilization Stores MATERIALU)

Officer in charge (SPRAVCE kartoteky) of Card Index

Asst Tech. QM

(POMOCENIK TECHN. HOSPODARE)

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U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY**Lt. Borislav KOVARA****Officer in Charge
of 2d Echelon****(VELITEL DILEN 2.
STUPNE)**

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2nd Lt. MALINA**Workshop
Workshop Supply
Officer****(SPRAVOC MATERIALU
DILEN 2. STUPNE)****Company Officers:****Maj. Oskar SEJBAL****CO of the Training
Company****(VELITEL VYCVIKOVE
ROTY)****Lt. Václav KOPECKÝ****Platoon Leader****(VELITEL CETY)****Lt. Zdenek KOKES****Platoon Leader****(VELITEL CETY)****Lt. Felix MOSKOR****Platoon Leader****(VELITEL CETY)****Lt. DOLANSKY****Platoon Leader****(VELITEL CETY)****2d Lt. PETRIK****Technical QM****(TECHNICKY UCETNI)****1st Lt. Jiri LPOJDA****CO 9th MT Co.****(VELITEL AUTOMOBILNI
ROTY)****(Co. is partly
deactivated)****2nd Lt. Jaroslav KLOS****Technical Qm****(TECHNICKY UCETNI)****Jr. Maj. KAPRSTEK****CO Replacement Co.****(VELITEL NAHRADNI ROTY)****1st Lt. VASICEK****Mobilization Officer (MOBILISACNI DUSTOJNIK)****Lt. KOUPIL****Officer in Charge
of Records****(VEDOUCI KMH. ROZKAZU)****2d Lt. FRODL****Accounting Officer****(POCETNI DUSTOJNIK)****2d Lt. PILZ****Assistant Supply
Officer****(UCETNI a POMOCNIK
PROVIANTHING)**

(Most of the 2d Lieutenants and Lieutenants are former warrant officers who were recently promoted when the rank of warrant officers was abolished.)

Transportation

The 6th Motor Transportation Battalion has at present about 200 Vehicles of all types, including motorcycles. The largest numbers of the same type are 30 Praga M, three-ton trucks and 18 Sroda, Tudor 1101s which are used as command cars. The vehicles are of British, US, German and CSR origin. Seventy percent of them are permanently deadlined due to the lack of spare parts.

Armament

The battalion has approximately 1,500 old rifles, 50 LMG's (very worn), 4 SMG (all of German origin) and 50 pistols (Parabellum).

Clothing

The dress uniforms are of Czech origin, model 1945, most of which are badly worn. The fatigue uniforms are from old German war stocks and are practically ragged.

mobilization clothing reserves are not ample to cover one quarter of the number required should the unit be fully mobilized.

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GENERAL

The CSR military schools are supervised, directed, and controlled by the 3rd (training) Staff Section, School Subsection of the General Staff, PRAGUE, insofar as formulation of general policies, training policies and administration, including processing application, selection of students, assignment of personnel and examinations are concerned.

THE 3rd (TRAINING) STAFF SECTION (3 ODDELENÍ. VYCHOVNOVÉ)

Chief unknown. (Former Chief: Col. Vilém BACHNER (GSC)). It has four Subsections:

Study (SKUPINA STUDIJNÍ). Chief: Col. Ing. Dr. Alexej GERNY (GSC).

Army Manuals (SKUPINA SLUŽEBNÍCH PŘEDPISŮ). Chief: Col. (fmu) HNUSKA (?) (GSC)

Physical Training (SKUPINA TĚLOVÝCHOVNA). Former Chief: Lt. Col. (fmu) VĚSELÝ-STEINER - purged or escaped.

Schools (SKUPINA ŠKOLSKÁ). Col. Vilém ZVÁČEK (GSC).

Desks in the "Schools" Subsection:

- (a) Officer's Cadet Schools (REFERENT ŠKOL NA DŮSTOJNÍKY V ZALOZE): Col. Jan JELÍNEK (Infantry).
- (b) Military Academy (REFERENT VOJENSKÉ AKADEMIE): Lt. Col. František OSANÝ (Infantry).
- (c) NCO Schools and Courses (REFERENT ŠKOL A KURSU PRO PODDŮSTOJNÍKY): Lt. Col. Štěpán KAREŠ (Infantry).
- (d) Military High Schools (REFERENT ŠDŠ - ŠKOL DŮSTOJNICKÉHO DOROSTU): Jr. Maj. (fmu) ŠAUER (JUDr).
- (e) Officer's Studies in Foreign Countries (REFERENT PRO ZAHRANIČNÍ STUDIA DŮSTOJNÍKŮ): Lt. Col. (fmu) JON (formerly JUNGER).

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- (f) High Military Institute (REFERENT PRO VVU - VYSOKE VOJENSKÉ UCILISTE): Officer unknown, formerly Major (fm) LANG (GSC).
- (g) Commanding Officer's Courses and Military Technical College (REFERENT PRO VELITELSKÉ KURSY DVOUJOJNÍKU A VIA-VOJENSKÉ INŽINÝRSKÉ AKADEMIE). Officer unknown.
- (h) Budget (REFERENT ROZPOČETOVY): Major (fm) ČERNÝ (possibly retired).
- (i) Selection of Personnel - Career Management: Col. František NOVOTNÝ (Infantry), Major Oldřich VACHULIK (Arty) (escaped).

DETAILS CONCERNING PRINCIPAL TYPES OF SCHOOLS

Officer - Cadet Schools

Officer-cadet schools train future reserve officers. The training course generally lasts nine months (from October to June). Upon graduation the officer cadets are assigned to units where they perform NCO duties.

After three months and upon successfully completing a practical "officers' test", those with the highest ratings receive promotions to sergeant cadets and the rest to corporal cadets. From then on they normally perform officers duties, especially at the present time in view of the critical shortage of officers. After 18 months of service approximately a third of the cadets are promoted to 3rd (one star) lieutenants (PODPORUCÍK).

Until the time of the Communist Putsch in 1948 only recruits who had at least a high school education were eligible for admission to the school, and, if they were found physically qualified, they were almost all accepted. Since 1948 waivers of the education requirements have been granted a small portion of the best NCO's in their second year of service. Since 1948, however, it has become common practice to grant admission to applicants who do not have a high school education, at the expense of the "educated" class, which is considered reactionary.

Locations of all officer-cadet schools in the CSR Army (exclusive of Air Corps schools) are as follows:

Infantry

BŘEHOV (1404E-4957N)
LAMBEEK (1638E-5008N)
Vr. HRADISTE (1728E-4904N) (motorized infantry)
MISTEK (1821E-4941N)
KOSICE (2115E-4844N) (motorized infantry)
NIMON (1444E-5040N)
PANKUBICE (1547E-5003N) (with cavalry training)

Infantry Special Weapons:

Infantry Organic Artillery (120 mm mortars, 75 mm short barreled cannon):
MILOVICE (1443E-5013N)

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Heavy Weapons (A/T guns of a smaller caliber than 75 mm, 82 mm mortars):
MILovice.

Infantry Signal Communications: NOVE MESTO NAD VAHOM (1750E-4845N)

Infantry Engineers: LITOMERICE (1406E-5033N) as part of the Engineer Training Center.

Artillery

Field (horse-drawn): formerly LIBETEC (1504E-5047N); school now moved to JOSEFOV (1556E-5021N) or PANDUBICE.

Field (horse-drawn): JIHlava (1535E-4924N), CO: Major Antonin JAKL.

Field (horse-drawn): BREZNO NAD HRONOM (1939E-4849N)

Field (motorized): HOLESOV (1734E-4920N)

A/T (motorized): ML BOLESLAV (1458E-5025N); formerly located at DOMAZLICE (1258E-4927N)

A/T (motorized): SLANY (1406E-5013N)

Heavy Artillery (motorized): KOBICE (2115E-4844N)

Heavy Mortars: KEMAROK (3036E-4908N)

AAA: PRAGUE

Armored Troops

DEDICE (1658E-4918N)

Engineer:

LITOMERICE (1406E-5033N); as part of the Engineer Training Center.

PARADUBICE (railway branch)

Signal Communications

NOVE MESTO NAD VAHOM

Motor Transportation

NITRA (1805E-4818N)

Exchanges

Technical branch: PLZEN (1333E-4945N)

Administrative branch: PLZEN

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Auxiliary Medical Service (equivalent to the US Medical Service Corps)**JOSEFOV (1556E-5021N)****The Military Academy, HRANICE (1743E-4913E)**

The Military Academy at HRANICE trains students for a career as regular army officers. The training course lasts two years and upon graduation the students are commissioned 2nd (two stars) lieutenants (POHUCIK).

The students spend the first year of their training in the Academy at HRANICE. The second year of the infantry students remain there, but Armored Corps, Signal Corps and Engineer students are transferred to Military Academy units located in individual branch training centers. The Artillery Branch has its own barracks near the railway station in HRANICE, where the artillery students are billeted during the entire course. AAA students undergo their second year of training at the AAA training center in PRAGUE.

The CSR Air Force has its own Military Aviation Academy (LVA- LELECKA VOJENSKA AKADEMIE) in HRADEC KRALOVE (1550E-5012E). The training course lasts three years.

([] Note: The CSR Military Academy, its organization and school system, including recent enlargement, has been described in detail in several current reports.)

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NCO Schools and Courses

Each year NCO schools are periodically organized by each individual regiment or independent battalion. At present, because of lack of instructors, one regiment of a division is normally detailed to train all NCO's for the whole division. The duration of the courses depends upon the branch of service, but it averages 4 - 5 months.

Military High Schools (SSD)

These schools, which were started in 1949, are designed to educate prospective applicants for the Military Academy from the workers and agricultural laborer classes. The course is supposed to concentrate four years high school education into a one year course, in addition to teaching certain military subjects. Students are subjected to military discipline. The schools are under army control and great emphasis is placed on physical training and political education.

For admission purposes each school is attached to a military unit. At present there are eight SSD attached to the following units:

1. 22nd Infantry Regiment "ARAGONSKY" at LIBEREC (1504E-5047N)
2. Cavalry Brigade Hq at PARDUBICE (1547E-5003N)
3. 35th Infantry Regiment at HLADA BOLESLAV (1456E-5026N).
4. 27th Infantry Battalion (independent) at UM. HRADISTE (1528E-4904N)
5. Unknown unit at TRNAVA (1726E-4822E)
6. Unknown unit at BRATISLAVA (1600E-4800E)

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7. 205th Arty Regiment at FRENSTAT (1813E-4933N)

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8. Unit and location unknown.

During the October 1948-July 1949 term all eight SDD's had approximately 1500 students of which 200 had been chosen from recruits serving their first year of military duty and the rest from civilian life. The 200 military students received their schooling in the SDD located in TESIN. The overall average age was from 19 to 22 years. All pupils wear military uniforms with a single red chevron in the shape of an inverted "V" on the left forearm.

Each school has a commander and a deputy commander (both army officers) and a political education officer. Platoon leaders, one per 40 students, are sergeants. Squad instructors are also NCO's. Civilian teachers, supplied by local high schools, are used for teaching academic subjects.

Applicants for these schools are carefully screened for political reliability. Applicants recommended by the Communist Party and its affiliated organizations (Youth Movement - GEM, Trade Union - MOH, etc.) are given preference. All applicants must also pass special intelligence and physical tests and examinations. However, because political reliability is considered to be of paramount importance, the intelligence quotient was lowered to 85 "psychotechnical degrees" in 1948. This is an unusual low for this type of test, and the object of this move was to insure that those applicants who were of below average intelligence, but politically reliable, would pass.

The Ministry of National Defense appropriated large funds for the establishment of the schools. According to CSR Army standards, clothing, billeting, study and recreational facilities are luxurious. It is believed that SDD's is a temporary expedient designed to fill depleted officer cadres with politically reliable youth.

ZIZKA Schools (ZIZKOVI SKOLY)

ZIZKA schools are in principle a normal four year high school. The difference is that in addition to academic subjects ZIZKA students receive theoretical and practical military training. In addition, political education and morale is emphasized, not merely during special lectures, but throughout the entire course. The students are subjected to military discipline, wear uniforms, and live on the school premises.

The primary purpose of these schools is to provide suitable candidates for the Military Academy from workers families, but graduates are not forced to apply for admission to the Military Academy.

There are at present two such schools in the CSR. One is located in MORAVSKA TREBOVA (1640E-4975N) and the other in SPISEKA NOVA VES (2034E-4857N), Slovakia.

Before World War II a similar school existed in MORAVSKA TREBOVA, but the primary purpose for this school was to educate officers' orphans and other officers' children in the hope that the school would provide a reservoir of suitable applicants for the Military Academy.

() Note: ZIZKA (JAN ZIZKA Z TREBOVA) was a famous Czech war leader, who in the 15th Century created the first "people's army", and invented a new combat technique of using war wago... mobile defensive positions.)

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The High Military Institute (VYSOKA VOJENSKA UCILISTE - VVU)

The High Military Institute, until 1949 called VYSOKA SKOLA VOJENSKA - VSV (Military College), provides a central administrative and policy making unit for various top level army schools and courses. The present scope of authority as far as direction of the training by the Institute Commandant is not known, but it would appear that regardless of the official interpretation of his mission in this respect, it actually depends upon the personality of the officer holding the appointment. Until 1949 the Commandant did not have an operational staff to assist him. At present the administration of all schools and courses of the institute is centralized in the VVU as much as possible.

Brigadier General Alois FIZERA is the present Commander of the VVU. He is an intelligent, educated, cultured and brilliant officer, who is known to have been western minded until the 1948 Communist Putsch, when he became a fellow traveller because he believed firmly that it was the wish of the people to link the GSR with the Eastern Bloc. He was graduated from the highest Soviet military school, the VOROSHILOV academy in MOSCOW. One year's attendance at this school and concurrent constant political indoctrination may also have had telling effects on his opinions.

The VVU includes the following schools and courses:

1. Permanent:

War College - VYSOKA SKOLA VALECHA - VSV, former abbreviation VSVa.

Service's College - VYSOKA INTENDANCI SKOLA - VIS

Course for Higher Commanders - KURS PRO VYSSI VELITELE - KVV.

2. Semi-Permanent:

Course for Commanders of Independent Units (i.e. Independent Battalion and Regiment) - KURS PRO VELITELE VOJSKOVICH TELES-KVVT.

Battalion Commanders Course - KURS VELITELU ODDILU - KVO

3. Various short term or even long term courses which are organized occasionally.

These use VVU's administrative facilities, but are not always under its operational control as is the case with various intelligence courses.

During 1948 and 1949 a proposed reorganization of the VVU was considered and discussed. According to the new proposal VVU would be reorganized entirely along the pattern of a civilian university. The instructional resources would be pooled and organized under the Institute Headquarters. The institute would have two faculties: "Military" (i.e., tactical) and "Service". ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Each faculty would have chairs for several subjects, i.e. general tactics, armored warfare, air force, artillery, etc. The various schools would remain only command and administration units. Graduates of the VSV and VIS were to receive academic titles. It is not known how far and to what extent the plans for the proposed reorganization have progressed.

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To qualify for attendance, a candidate must: hold the rank of 1st Lt. through Jr. Major (in exceptional cases, Major); be 26-35 years old; have had at least three years troop duty; be politically reliable; be physically fit; submit a recommendation from his commanding officer; and complete successfully three general education and military examinations.

During the last year the political reliability, determined by the Political Education Branch, by the OZ and by the I (Personnel) Division of the Ministry of National Defense, was a "sine qua non" condition. Because an insufficient amount of reliable older applicants were available, exception was made for the 1949/1950 term and lieutenants who were graduated in 1946 from the Military Academy became eligible for admission to the College.

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[] Note: No attempt has been made to delve into details, especially concerning studies at the VSV, because it is known, that several high ranking VSV instructors, including the former Commandant have escaped to Germany where they have no doubt been debriefed.)

Service's College (VYSOKA INTENDANCE SKOLA - VIS)

There exists no equivalent for the term INTENDANCE in the US Army terminology. It is an officer's corps which is in charge of certain rear services matters. An INTENDANT is a staff officer assigned to division and higher unit headquarters on the rear services (TYL) staff and is in charge of, and in control of, all finance matters, clothing, food, individual equipment, non-motorized transportation material, buildings and army real estate. The QM Corps is the executive organ of the INTENDANCE (Office or Staff Section) or of the INTENDANT (individual officer).

After 1945, when the CSR Army accepted a modified Soviet pattern of Staff organization, INTENDANCE could no longer be fitted into the organization and there were strong voices advocating the abolition of the Corps and replacement by a "Service's General Staff Officers". However, because the Chief INTENDANT who was handling budget allocation for various sections and departments was influential and feared, the change never materialized. However, with the ever increasing influence of Soviet trained officers within the CSR Army the fight for the abolition of this branch may be renewed.

INTENDANTS are trained in the VIS, which is a college on the same level as the VSV - War College. Qualifications for entrance, system of studies, etc. is similar to that of the VSV. Individual problems are often studied in conjunction with the VSV, but after the initial stage of the study, which deals with general tactics and the commander's decision (course of action), VIS devotes more time to rear services technical supply problems. VIS's civilian lectures, especially concerning national economy etc., are more thorough.

A year after graduation, successful officers are transferred to the INTENDANT Corps.

Course for Commanders of Independent Units (KURS PRO VELITELI VOJSKOVICH TILNI AKVT)

This course is compulsory for all lieutenant colonels and colonels who are expected to be appointed, or who previously have been COs of independent units (UTVAR).

[] Note: In military Czech terminology the latter term denotes a self-administered unit, in which the CO has complete disciplinary powers. In the case of a field unit, UTVAR is an independent battalion or regiment of any arms. In the CSR the T/O rank of the CO of independent battalion is colonel.)

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Lectures and studies deal with independent battalion and regimental problems, while next higher unit brigade and/or division are also considered.

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Course for Higher Commanders (KURS PRO VYESI VELITELE - KVV)

This course, which lasts 9 months, is colloquially called the GENERAL's Course, as its mission is to prepare colonels for command of higher units. Successful graduation of the course is a mandatory prerequisite for promotion to the rank of General officer. Sometimes, especially after 1945, several general officers were ordered to attend this Course to brush up their military knowledge and to become indoctrinated in Soviet tactics.

Problems of division, corps and army level are studied here, and the curriculum emphasizes the commander's operational activities, while staff activities are considered secondarily.

During 1949 it was proposed that a similar course for colonels and general officers, future commanders and high staff officers of rear services, be opened in 1950.

Battalion Commanders Course (KURS VELITELN ODDILU - KVO)

Majors, Jr. Majors, and, in exceptional cases, captains are eligible for admission to the course. Graduation from the course is mandatory for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and only officers who have completed the course are supposed to assume command of a battalion. However, since 1945, because of existing conditions, many exceptions have been made.

The lectures and studies deal with battalion level problems including all supporting arms because officers of all arms of the service are trained here. The training system is similar to that of the second part of the first term at the VVV.


The course lasts six (?) months and alternates every second year with a Course for Independent Unit Commanders.

Military Technical College (VOJENSKA INZENYRSKA AKADEMIE - VIA)

This College which existed in the pre-war CSR Army in a similar form was reopened in 1948 and is located in the AAA barracks at PRAGUE-POHOŘELC.

The mission of the College is to provide the CSR Army with career officers for the technical arms and services. (For example, a certain number of appointments in the Corps of Engineers and Signal Corps, the Ordnance Corps and other service branches are reserved for such officers.)

In this college, students attend a civilian technical university and takes regular civilian courses and examinations in one of the following fields: machinery, building construction, chemical and electro-mechanics.

The students are billeted in barracks, wear military uniforms with a yellow stripe in pattern of  on their shoulder straps and receive the same pay as student of the Military Academy. In addition to the normal civilian technical studies, who are controlled and supervised, students receive practical basic military training and lectures, particularly concerning adaption to military use of knowledge acquired during civilian studies.

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After graduation the students receive the regular civilian academic title of **INGENYER**, which is used after their military rank - for example: Capt. Ing. JAN NOVAK.

The number of students of the College was limited to 50. In the absence of applicants who had completed part of their studies at technical universities graduates from technical high school were accepted. The length of the studies therefore depended on the amount of civilian education each student had to his credit. New students are accepted only when a vacancy occurs.

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